

The U. S. Department of Labor has recently used 'poverty' to describe families with less than \$4,000 income, but in 1959 39.0% of all Surry families had less than \$3,000; most of those families were farm or rural-nonfarm families. The quantity, distribution, and expenditure of income are vital in assessing an area's well-being. An area with limited total income or with many low-income families has difficulty in financing adequate community or private facilities; lack of demand limits growth of business or professional services, and the community tends to stagnate. But if a few families control most of the community's income, a sizable proportion of all income may be lost locally to outside investments or for specialized goods and services elsewhere. A high general level of income is most conducive to improving general standards of living, upgrading private and public assets, and creating the basis for continued economic growth.

The distributions of income in Elkin, Mount Airy, and Pilot Mountain are favorable for provision of a high level of commercial and professional services and lead to the expectation that these towns have good housing and well-developed community facilities; and one expects to find a high level of educational attainment and of white collar and technical workers. By the same token, the less-favored rural areas would be expected to be lacking in other attributes.

Education:

Map 3 and Appendix D present detailed data by township for Surry County on educational attainment levels of adults. Elkin stands out, followed by Mount Airy and the townships of Pilot and Westfield. Figure 2 gives comparative data, 1950 and 1960, for Elkin, Mount Airy, the County, State, and nation. It has been suggested that the improvement in educational level for the County was held back by outmigration of many youths with better than average education. Some 17.6% of all County adults lacked a fifth-grade education; these people are called 'functional illiterates,' and as modern technology advances, they will be less and less able to meet the demand for more education and higher skills in jobs, leading to chronic unemployment and lowered levels of living for their families.